

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 H-02 SAM-01 SSO-00 SS-15 DODE-00

PM-04 NSCE-00 NSC-05 L-03 INR-07 INRE-00 SP-02 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5041

INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY

GOVERNOR PANCANAL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: MANAGEMENT OF
THE BYRD AMENDMENT PROBLEM

FOR WYROUGH (ARA/PAN) FROM BELL-FOR DELIVERY 8:45 A.M.
SEPT. 8, 1975

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 1 FROM THE NEGOTIATORS
APPLICABLE TO THE SEPTEMBER, 1975 NEGOTIATING ROUND.

II.

A. AMBASSADOR BUNKER HAS AGREED THAT, IF ASSISTANT
SECRETARIES MCLOSKEY AND ROGERS HAVE NO OBJECTION, THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE MIGHT BE PASSED TO SENATOR BYRD (IND. VA.)
BEFORE THE SENATE CONVENES ON SEPTEMBER 8. WHETHER AND WHEN IT IS
DESIRABLE TO PASS THE MESSAGE WILL DEPEND ON THE DEPARTMENT'S
PERCEPTION OF THE STATE OF PLAY RESPECTING THE BYRD AMENDMENT
AND JUDGMENT ON HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED.

B. BEGIN QUOTE

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CONTADORA ISLAND,

PANAMA,
SEPTEMBER 7, 1975

DEAR HARRY:

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR REPLY TO MY LETTER ON THE
PANAMA MATTER, RECEIVED JUST AS THE NEGOTIATORS WERE
DEPARTING WASHINGTON.

WE NOTED THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM YOUR OFFICE THAT
YOU WOULD DEFER PROPOSING TO THE SENATE A JUDGMENT
ON ITS PART RESPECTING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
UNTIL THE NEGOTIATORS HAD RETURNED FROM THEIR CURRENT
VISIT TO PANAMA.

WE MUCH APPRECIATE THAT COURTESY. THE
AMBASSADOR WILL WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING
YOU UP TO DATE ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THUS FAR IN
THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WHAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO
ACCOMPLISH IN THE FUTURE.

WE PLAN TO BE BACK IN WASHINGTON WITHIN TEN DAYS,
AND WILL CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO IMPOSE ON YOUR TIME.

IT WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO WRITE DAD ABOUT
HIS COLUMN. HE SAID THAT, EVERYTHING CONSIDERED,
HE SUSPECTED YOU HAD GONE RATHER FAR IN
SAYING THAT HE HAD "HANDLED" THE SUBJECT
MATTER WELL. I TOLD HIM NOT TO BE SO PESSIMISTIC.
ALL THE BEST,
MOREY.

END QUOTE

III.

A. THE AMBASSADOR ASKS THAT THE DEPARTMENT ARRANGE TO KEEP
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY VEYSEY, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE
PANAMA CANAL NOEGOTIATIONS WORKING GROUP IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT,
INFORMED OF THE ACTIONS IT PROPOSES RESPECTING THE BYRD
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AMENDMENT AND RESPECTING ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT APPROACHES TO THE
CONGRESS ON THE PANAMA PROBLEM.

B. THE NEGOTIATORS BELIEVE THAT CLOSE COORDINATION WITH
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IN ALL OUR EFFORTS TOWARD
A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THIS NEGOTIATIONS IS ESSENTIAL.
SUCH COORDINATION SHOULD FOLLOW FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
DECISION IN THE NSDM THAT THE TWO DEPARTMENTS PROCEED TO

JOIN IN BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA, AS WELL AS FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO PANAMA.

IV.

THE NEGOTIATORS WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO EXPLOIT WITH PANAMA ANY FORTUNATE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONGRESS RESPECTING THE BYRD/SNYDER AMENDMENTS, OR TO PLACE ANY UNFORTUNATE ONES IN THE APPROPRIATE CONTEXT. PLEASE KEEP THE NEGOTIATORS ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND FORECASTS IN DETAIL.

JORDEN

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